

CLAIMS

1. A camera comprising:
a display;
a display housing having a front side and a back side, the display being encased in the back side of the display housing;
a main camera body having a front end and a back end, the display housing being movably connected to the main camera body;
a camera lens of a given diameter encased in the front end of the main camera body; and
the display housing having first and second positions relative to the camera lens, wherein in the first position the display housing covers the lens and in the second position the lens is exposed.
2. The camera of claim 1, wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.
3. The camera of claim 1, wherein display housing slidably moves between the first and second positions.
4. The camera of claim 1, wherein the display housing pivotally moves between the first and second positions.
5. The camera of claim 1, wherein the display housing hingedly moves between the first and second positions.
6. The camera of claim 1, wherein the display housing further comprising a weather shield.
7. The camera of claim 1, wherein the display is unexposed when the display housing is in the first position and exposed when the display housing is in the second position.
8. The camera of claim 1, wherein when the display housing is in the first position the display is adjacent the lens; and

when the display housing is in the second position the display is viewable.

9. A camera comprising:
 - a main camera body;
 - a lens received in the main camera body;
 - a display housing movably coupled to the main camera body to selectively cover and uncover the lens; and
 - a display received in the display housing to display images received by the lens.
10. The camera as in claim 9, wherein when the display housing is positioned to uncover the lens a microphone located near the lens is also exposed.
11. The camera of claim 9, wherein the display housing is adapted to be positionable in a first and a second position relative to the lens.
12. The camera of claim 11, wherein the display housing moves from a first and second position via an electric motor.
13. The camera of claim 11, wherein the display housing covers the lens when in the first position and exposes the lens when in the second position.
14. The camera of claim 11, wherein the display housing covers the lens and the display is unexposed when in the first position and when the display housing is in the second position the lens is exposed and the display is viewable.
15. The camera of claim 11, wherein in the second position the display in the display housing faces approximately in the opposite direction as the lens.
16. The camera of claim 11, wherein at least one control approximate the display in the display housing is operation when the display housing is in the second position.

17. The camera of claim 11, wherein the display housing is hingedly attached to the main camera body such that in the first position the display housing covers the lens and the display is covered by a weather shield; and

further wherein the display housing in the second position is approximately 180 degrees from the first position such that the lens is uncovered and the display side of the display housing faces in the opposite direction as the lens.

18. The camera of claim 11, wherein the display housing is pivotally attached to the main camera body such that in the first position the display housing covers the lens and the display side of the display housing is adjacent the lens;

further wherein the display housing in the second position is pivoted approximately 180 degrees such that the lens and display are exposed and the display faces approximately in the opposite direction as the lens.

19. The camera of claim 11, wherein the display housing is slidably attached to the main camera body such that in the first position the display housing covers the lens and the display side of the display housing is adjacent the lens; and

further wherein in the second position the display housing is slid to uncover the lens and exposes the lens and the display.

20. A camera lens and display apparatus comprising:

a lens to receive images received in a camera body;

a display to display the received images; and

a display housing, the display received in the display housing, the display housing movably coupled to the camera body to selectively cover and protect the lens and the display.

21. The camera lens and display apparatus of claim 20, wherein the display housing has a first position and a second position in relation to the lens, further wherein in the first position the display housing covers the lens.

22. The camera lens and display apparatus of claim 21, further wherein when the display housing is in the second position the lens is uncovered.
23. The camera lens and display apparatus of claim 21, wherein the lens and the display are operational in the second position.
24. A method of operating a camera, the method comprising:
moving a display housing containing a display from a first position that covers a lens to a second position that uncovers the lens.
25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
uncovering the display when moving the display housing to the second position.
26. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
operationally activating the lens and the display when the display housing is positioned in the second position.
27. The method of claim 24, wherein moving the display housing further comprises,
sliding the display housing from the first position to the second position.
28. The method of claim 24, wherein moving the display housing further comprises,
rotating the display housing from the first position to the second position.
29. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
protecting the display from weather with a weather shield when the display housing is in the second position.